

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification, as follows:

Page 18, lines 19-27:

--Referring to Fig. 7, as discussed herein, the functionalized microbeads 72 - 74 may be placed on a tray, plate, or substrate (or "chip") 84 with grooves 82 to allow the microbeads to be aligned in a predetermined direction, such as that described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/661,234 (~~Docket No. CC-0648A~~), filed Sept. 12, 2003, and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/661,836 (~~Docket No. CC-0652~~), filed Sept. 12, 2003, which are both incorporated herein by reference. The grooves 82 may have holes (not shown) that provide suction to keep the functionalized microbeads in position. Once aligned in the tray 84, the functionalized microbeads 52 - 54 are individually scanned and analyzed by the bead detector 20.--

Page 19, lines 4-18:

--Referring to Fig. 8, more specifically, as discussed herein and in the aforementioned patent applications, the codes in the microbeads 8 are detected when illuminated by incident light 24 which produces a diffracted or output light signal 27 to a reader 820, which includes the optics and electronics necessary to read the codes in each bead 8, as described herein and/or in the aforementioned copending patent application. The reader 820 provides a signal on a line 822 indicative of the code in each of the bead 8 to a known computer 811. The incident light 24 may be directed transversely from the side of the tray 84 (or from an end or any other angle) with a narrow band (single wavelength) and/or multiple wavelength source, in which case the code is represented by a spatial distribution of light and/or a wavelength spectrum, respectively, as described hereinafter and in the aforementioned copending patent application. Other illumination, readout techniques, types of gratings, geometries, materials, etc. may be used for the microbeads 8, as discussed hereinafter and in the aforementioned patent application. The computer 812 ~~811~~ provides an output signal on a line 813 indicative of the bead location and code.--